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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

South Dakota Guard runners take top honors at Army Ten-Miler

WASHINGTON, D.C. – Two teams of runners from the South Dakota Army National Guard took top honors at the Army Ten-Miler race on Sunday, Oct. 5, in Washington D.C.

A team of four women captured 1st place in the women's division and a team of five men placed 3rd in the men's division at the 24th annual event.

"The members of the teams are indicative of the quality of the South Dakota Army National Guard Soldier," said Lt. Col. Tim Moran, 196th Regiment, Regional Training Institute. "The dedication, discipline and desire of the Soldiers who participate are outstanding, and it's an honor to experience this type of event with the best of the best."

Open to both military and civilian competitors, the event featured 26,000 registered runners and is considered the largest 10-miler race in the U. S. and the second largest in the world.

Participants can sign up as individuals or in teams. About 650 teams vie for team titles, such as the Commander's Cup, International Competition, and USCAA Ten-Mile Championship.

"It was awesome to meet other members from our state as well as Soldiers from other states and countries," said Staff Sgt. Richard Harming, 881st Troop Command.

The race is also open to people with disabilities.

"It was absolutely amazing to see all the handicap athletes that competed and finished the event," said Sgt. 1st Class Corey Rabenberg, Recruiting Command. "That inspires a person to do their best."

The goal of the Army Ten-Miler is to promote the Army, build esprit-de-corps, support fitness goals, and enhance community relations with all proceeds benefiting the Army's Morale, Welfare, and Recreation program.

The MWR program has a comprehensive network of support and leisure services designed to enhance the lives of Soldiers and their families.

"This experience is hard to put into words, but I can say I'm humbled by the moment," said 2nd Lt. Maria Fritza, Company B, 139th Brigade Support Battalion. "It's a great way to honor the Soldiers and their families who can't participate because of deployments or have sacrificed their lives for the mission."

Starting at the Pentagon, the course crossed the Potomac, follows through the streets of Washington, D.C., and finishes at the Pentagon – passing such national treasures as the Lincoln Memorial, Washington Monument and the Capitol.

"There is nothing better than lining up at 8 a.m. with 26,000 other runners – with the sight of the Pentagon and the sound of Black Hawks flying over," said Maj. Jonette Murphy, Medical Command. "The feeling you have makes you so proud to be in the military."

Runners and Results:

SDARNG Women's Team – 1st Place

Maj. Jonette Murphy – 1hour, 25 minutes

2nd Lt. Maria Fritza – 1:26

Spc. Eliann Bray – 1:33

Sgt. 1st Class Michaellette Higgins – 1:37

SDARNG Men's Team – 3rdPlace

Chief Warrant Officer Robert Steadman – 1:08

Lt. Col. Tim Moran – 1:11

Sgt. 1st Class Corey Rabenberg – 1:16

Staff Sgt. Richard Harming – 1:21

Sgt. 1st Class Jared Richter – 1:23

FOR MORE INFORMATION, please contact Maj. Orson Ward at (605) 737-6721, cell (605) 431-8753.

Photo Outline:



081013-A-9937D-001: Nine members of the South Dakota Army National Guard competed in the 24th annual Army Ten-Miler race on Sunday, Oct. 5, in Washington, D.C., and took top honors by finishing 1st place in the women's division and 3rd place in the men's division. Back row: Sgt. 1st Class Jared Richter, Spc. Eliann Bray, Staff Sgt. Richard Harming, Chief Warrant Officer Robert Steadman, Lt. Col. Tim Moran, Sgt. 1st Class Corey Rabenberg. Front row: 2nd Lt. Maria Fritza, Sgt. 1st Class Michaellette Higgins, Maj. Jonette Murphy.

Link to photo: <https://sdguard.ngb.army.mil/released/081013-A-9937D-001.jpg>